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Brothers In Battle, Best Of Friends: Two WWII Paratroopers From The Original Band Of Brothers Tell Their Story

William "Wild Bill" Guarnere and Edward "Babe" Heffron
with Robyn Post

Two WWII
Paratroopers
from the Original
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BROTHERS IN BATTLE

BEST OF FRIENDS



Foreword by TOM HANKS



Synopsis

Tom Hanks introduces the "remarkable"(Publishers Weekly) story of two inseparable friends and soldiers portrayed in the HBO miniseries Band of Brothers. William "Wild Bill" Guarnere and Edward "Babe" Heffron were among the first paratroopers of the U.S. Army?members of an elite unit of the 101st Airborne Division called Easy Company. The crack unit was called upon for every high-risk operation of the war, including D-Day, Operation Market Garden in Holland, the Battle of the Bulge, and the capture of Hitler's Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden. Both men fought side by side?until Guarnere lost his leg in the Battle of the Bulge and was sent home. Heffron went on to liberate concentration camps and take Hitler's Eagle's Nest hideout. United by their experience, they reconnected at the war's end and have been best friends ever since. Their story is a tribute to the lasting bond forged between comrades in arms?and to all those who fought for freedom.

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Customer Reviews

This is another band of brothers book told from the soldiers who were there. The reason I love this book is because it's told through the soldiers eyes. I teach a class on what happens to a person in a high stress situation, mentally and physically. If you have read Ambrose's book, Winter's book, or

any of the others from Easy Company you will see the same stories told. But from the soldiers perception and memory you will see several different details in what happened. Who shot who, who was there, where it happened, etc. Babe and Wild Bill's stories in this book are different than other versions. This to me gives all the books, including this one, credibility. Under life threatening situations the human mind perceives things differently, sees it differently, from person to person. If each BOB book told every story exactly the same then we could buy one book and get all the information we needed. When you read this book you hear the stories from Bill and Babe's perception, and the details are different from the other books. This just shows you that under stress no one sees the exact same thing. It is a great addition to any Band of Brothers library.

Bill and Babe's story is fascinating. The bond that developed between the two of them once they met in England is remarkable. How they, along with all the other men who fought, could endure for the duration of the war is almost beyond comprehension. The character of these men set them apart as a special breed in a generation that answered their countries call. What I find revealing about Bill and Babe is that they do not look at themselves as special or brave or hero's but only doing their duty as was expected of them. No where do you get any sense of bragging about their combat experience. It was just a simple matter of doing what they were trained to do. Their lives after the war and their personal accomplishments are a tribute to their character. Bill's work in setting up the reunions and keeping them going is a testament to his character. Their devotion to each other is a true picture of friendship and the definition of "Brotherhood". A must read!

For those interested in the story of Easy Company. This remarkable band of men, a group of ordinary American kids from that depression era, --just a little more full of athletic ability and of a drive to test and prove themselves than your average 18-yr-old-- the redoubtable combat unit they became in World War II, and the strikingly powerful bond that sharing the extreme experiences of fighting and enduring forged between them, has become a focus of interest and even fascination for several generations of American readers and viewers. We read Bill Guarnere's and Babe Heffron's stories and we learn a little more about the incredible human experience the war in Europe was for these 1st paratroopers. Anyone interested in the human heart and mind will find that the series Band of Brothers, Ambrose's original book from which it was adapted, and the subsequent autobiographical writings by Winters and, here, Guarnere and Heffron, have a way of working themselves into your thoughts and imagination the way few works do. We read and learn.

Well written book and a good read if you have an interest in delving into the individual lives of the members of the 101st airborne. My 25 year-old daughter read it and was impressed as well.

Two of the most famous paratroopers from Easy Company. It's a great Kindle read. Now explain why I'm stuck writing a damn revue, unable to leave the app and start a new book.

The story of Wild Bill Guarnere and Babe Heffron told in this book brought me with them to the frozen fields and forest of Belgium during that cold winter where for 78 days they lay in foxholes eating cold food, shivering their time away all the while battling the Nazi forces in a daily test that took its toll in maimed and frozen corpses. The trials and triumphs of the men who, despite the stupidity of their jeep lieutenant officers, made it through the war alive and in a most heroic way. The first hand accounts of these two men is the absolute best WW2 story I have read, ever.

I have read all the WWII books ever written about Easy Company, etc. This one was, by far, the best. It begins with Babe and Bill growing up in South Philly, carries through the battles, and tells about after the war, right up to the present. It tells about the making of "Band of Brothers" and the interaction between the original men and the actors who played them in the movie/book. The thoughts of Babe and Bill and their enduring relationship throughout the whole book is priceless!

Despite the recent passing of both of these heroes, it is fortunate that they were able to write this memoir and preserve their compelling story for all time. This is not a book written by a historian, but a first-person story of war, loss and suffering, accomplishment, comradeship, and a true loving friendship. Their story is riveting and inspiring, often somber but also humorous at times. I could not put it down and it is now one of my favorite books on World War Two. If you want to not only read a great war story, but also experience how and why undying, lifelong friendships are often forged during war, this is the perfect book for you.

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